REPORT

OF

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION (N. S.)

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31,

1973

QUEEN'S PRINTER
HALIFAX, N. S.

TO HiS HONOUR

The Honourable Clarence Lloyd Gosse, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.(C.)

Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to submit herewith a Report of the Emergency Measures Organization (Nova Scotia) for the fiscal year ended March, A.D. 1973.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Peter M. Nicholson, Q.C.

Minister-in-Charge of Emergency Measures Organization (N.S.)

101-05130/

REPORT

OF

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION

(NOVA SCOTIA)

For the Year Ended 31st March 1973

LEGISLATION

1. The Emergency Measures Organization (NS) continued to operate under the authority of the EMO Act, Chapter 87 RS of Nova Scotia 1967, and regulations promulgated under authority of that Act.

2. **AIMS**

a. Enhance the capability of municipalities to make provision for, and to react to emergencies within the community, and to provide assistance in emergencies to neighbouring communities.

b. Increase the capability of the Government to provide assistance to municipalities in emergencies.

c. Continue to advance the Government's approved activities in the field of war emergency measures.

3. EMO (NS) is a co-ordinating agency of government charged with the duty of insuring that plans and preparations are made at the provincial and municipal level to deal with emergencies and/or war measures affecting the safety of life and property. During the operational phase of an emergency, EMO (NS) co-ordinates the efforts of the provincial and federal government departments within the Province and private health and welfare agencies to assist municipalities affected by the emergency.

ORGANIZATION

4. For the purpose of achieving its emergency measures aim, the

province is divided into three zones with representatives at zone headquarters in Kentville, Truro, and Sydney, whose duty is to assist the municipalities in plans and training for emergencies. There is a provincial office in Halifax with a small co-ordinating staff of planners and clerical staff charged with the duty of program planning and development. Total EMO (NS) staff is six in zone offices, and eight at the provincial headquarters, for a total of fourteen.

5. In September 1972, P.M. Nicholson QC, became Minister-in-charge of Emergency Measures. The Director, Mr. C.F. Kennedy, retired on 1st September 1972, (after many years of notable service to his country, as a soldier in World War II, as the representative for Colchester to the Parliament of Canada, and as the Director of EMO (NS).) He was succeeded by Mr. George H. Emerson. Mr. Raefe Douthwaite, the Assistant Director, retired in April (after a career in EMO (NS) spanning some 16 years.) He was succeeded by the Planning Officer, Mr. Allan Gray. Mr. E.M. Ogilvie, who had been Zone Controller in Truro (for some twelve years,) succeeded Mr. Gray as Planning Officer in Halifax. He was succeeded as Zone Controller by Mr. William Campbell, Belmont, Nova Scotia.

OPERATIONS

6. Apart from the threat of flooding, there was very little in the way of emergency operations during the year. The water levels produced by snow coverage were high in several areas throughout the province; however, the spring run-off was gradual enough to prevent any serious flooding. The Salmon River overflowed at a street called Montgomery Drive some two miles east of Truro. Five houses were damaged and the occupants of one house had to be rescued from the roof top. This is a notorious trouble spot, and negotiations are under way to remove the houses to higher ground.

7. In order to reduce loss of life and property from flooding, the government set up a committee under the chairmanship of the Director EMO (NS) to assess the potential flood threat and to advise communities so that they could take necessary steps to protect property and to save lives. This committee is represented by federal and provincial government membership who assess the flood potential by constant evaluation of rising water tables

resulting from heavy rains, by surveys of snow conditions in river drainage basins, and by meteorological observations and forecasts. Warnings can then be promulgated to the news media through the N.S. Communications and Information Centre, which has wire facilities to all daily newspapers, radio and television station and The Canadian Press.

3. Winter storms in Cape Breton brought out snowmobile clubs to assist the local emergency services and to assist in the transportation of persons stranded in the storm.

9. An emergency communication centre, first of its kind in the province, was set up in the town of Bridgewater and located at Dawson Memorial Hospital. The centre was established to provide assistance to residents of the municipal districts and communities of the County of Liverpool. It was established not to replace the normal municipal health, police, fire, and other services, but rather to supplement them. The centre is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It has radio communications to all emergency services throughout the County of Lunenburg. This is an excellent example of the most efficient use of emergency services, and it is hoped that this example will be followed by other communities throughout the province in the coming years.

10. EMO (NS) is the co-ordinating agency for requests for assistance to the province from Federal departments of government. The department of National Defence provides air transport assistance to the provincial government when this request does not conflict with services normally available through commercial sources. It also provides emergency air evacuation in cases of a humanitarian nature to save life or to relieve suffering. In addition to numerous mercy flights involving cases of an emergency medical air transport nature, some examples of services provided by the Department of National Defence throughout the year were:

a. May 29/72 – Airlift was provided to the Department of Lands and Forests to ferry men and equipment from the Waverly fire depot to Lake Echo, Nova Scotia, for fire fighting duties.

b. May 30/72 – June 1/72 – CFB Cornwallis provided one fire truck and forty men to assist in fire fighting near the town of Annapolis, Nova Scotia.

c. May 29/72 – One helicopter was provided to assist in a search for a man lost in the woods on a hunting trip near Springhill. The man subsequently walked out of the woods on his own.

d. Nov. 14 – A ground search party of eleven men from CFS Sydney was provided for one day to assist in the search of a lost hunter in Cape Breton, in the area of Saint Ann's-Mount Dennis. The man was found dead in the woods.

e. Nov. 26 – A helicopter was provided to assist in the search for children lost in the woods near Timberlea, Halifax County. The children were found by this helicopter.

f. Feb. 3 – A helicopter was provided to assist in rescuing people from the roof of a house broken from its foundations by flooding from a broken dyke in the Salmon River near Truro. While the helicopter was enroute to the scene, the stranded people were rescued from the roof of their home with the aid of a mobile mechanical bucket.

g. Feb. 4 – Airlift was provided for the medical evacuation of a quadraplegic patient from Sydney to London University Hospital, Ontario, for a life-saving operation.

TRAINING

11. Canadian Emergency Measures College

Canada EMO conducts training courses at the Canadian Emergency Measures College, Arnprior, Ontario. The courses are both of a general and advanced nature in all twenty-six of the activities of the Canada Emergency Measures program. Canada EMO pays for all expenses of students attending the college. During 1972, students from the province of Nova Scotia attended CEMC courses as follows:

Activity	Number of Students Attending
Management and Control	20
Government Organization	2
Emergency Public Information	2
RBC Service	4
Emergency Health	19
Emergency Welfare	12
Agriculture	6
Fisheries	5
Miscellaneous Federal Activities	14
Total Attendance	84

12. **Provincial Training**

Courses and instructions in emergency measures are carried out at the provincial level at the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters, Camp Debert, at zone headquarters, and in the municipalities. Courses of instructions were conducted by EMO (NS) personnel as follows:

Activity	Number of Attendees
Management and Control	40
Government Organization	130
RBC Service	10
Emergency Health	67
Emergency Welfare	58
Total attendance	305

13. The Municipality of Digby trained fifty firemen in fire rescue procedures. The Municipality of Lunenburg trained ambulance operators, police, and fire personnel in advance first-aid in support of their centralized emergency assistance program.

14. EMO (NS) Controllers gave lectures and film presentations to a number of groups, including students, nurses, radio clubs, service clubs, municipal councils, and emergency planning committees.

15. Members of EMO (NS) staff participated in an exercise at Greenwood, Nova Scotia, conducted by the Department of

National Defence to illustrate techniques used by armed forces personnel in aid of the civil power.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

16. This activity provides for the continuity of government authority and the organization of essential government functions in an emergency. It requires the development of policies and plans covering the functioning of provincial departments, commissions, agencies, and municipal governments in all types of emergencies. For war contingency it involves the preparation of plans for relocation of government elements to emergency government headquarters, the establishment of operational procedures, state of readiness, and contingency plans.

17. Emergency government headquarters have been established as follows:

a. Regional Provincial Emergency Government Headquarters (REGHQ) at Camp Debert, Nova Scotia.

b. Regional Relocation Unit (RRU) in support of the REGHQ at the Teacher's College, Truro, Nova Scotia.

c. Western Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (ZEGHQ) at Kentville, Nova Scotia.

d. Central Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (ZEGHQ) at Truro, Nova Scotia.

e. Cape Breton Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (ZEGHQ) at Sydney, Nova Scotia.

f. Municipal Emergency Government Headquarters (MEGHQ) would be established at the municipal level, co-ordinated by the ZEGHQ's.

18. In the fall of 1972, a Municipal Civil Emergency Planning Officers' Conference was held at the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters, Camp Debert. The conference was conducted as a seminar involving the solution of problems posed by theoretical emergencies arising within the municipality.

19. A manning exercise was conducted at each Zone Headquarters in co-operation with Canada EMO to acclimatize individuals who have positions assi ıed to them within the headquarters.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

20. During the year EMO carried out a number of information activities to inform the public of its program and activities. These included production of the quarterly EMO Bulletin, press releases and photography. In addition, an arrangement with the N.S. Communications and Information Centre was made to use their transmission facilities to distribute public announcements to the provincial radio and television stations and daily newspapers.

21. The public information program will be continued to foster greater public understanding of EMO objectives and activities through brochures and booklets, public addresses, and the news media.

RBC SERVICE

22. The objectives of the RBC service are to develop procedures for communities to deal with accidents involving dangerous materials and to maintain a capability of evaluating the radiological hazards resulting from nuclear war.

23. EMO (NS) maintains a province-wide reporting network for evaluating the effects of nuclear fallout in war emergency, and maintains the necessary radiation detection equipment for this purpose. It also assists the Department of Public Health and municipal and commercial agencies in assessing radiation hazards resulting from transportation accidents involving radio isotopes, and accidents involving the commercial use of radio isotopes. For example, during the year the EMO (NS) RADEF Officer was called to investigate whether a hazard existed in the hole of a ship in which a radio isotope container had shifted during its voyage. It was determined that no hazard existed as a result of this accident, and unloading proceeded as usual.

24. During the year, EMO (NS) initiated research into methods for dealing with transportation and industrial accidents involving

dangerous chemicals. The intent of this research was to develop procedures for community emergency services in identifying and containing the hazards so as to protect the general public.

25. Radiation monitor's courses were conducted at the local level, and some candidates were trained at Canadian Emergency Measures College, Arnprior.

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

26. The Department of Public Health maintains a full-time nursing officer who is the emergency health services co-ordinator for the department, and who co-opts the services of appropriate medical health specialists for advice and assistance in emergency health problems.

27. The Department of Public Health, in co-operation with the Federal Department of National Health and Welfare, maintains emergency health supplies prepositioned at strategic locations throughout the province for use in war emergency and peacetime disaster. These medical stockpiles include 300 bed hospitals, casualty collection units, first aid posts, blood shadow depots, and public health laboratories.

28. Training activities are principally associated with the education of nursing and other medical personnel in the department and in the Province's hospitals in emergency health planning and procedures. Training is also carried out at the municipal level in co-operation with EMO (NS) staff personnel in community disaster training, with particular emphasis placed on the readiness of hospitals in emergencies. Hospital disaster exercises were held in conjunction with community disaster exercises in Halifax, Antigonish, Lunenburg, Berwick, and Tatamagouche. The Halifax City Inter-hospital Disaster Planning Committee was formed under the chairmanship of the EHS nursing officer, and published an emergency medical plan for the city.

29. In addition to inservice training in numerous emergency health training programs in different communities throughout the province, two nursing seminars in emergency health were held at REGHQ Debert, attended by 61 candidates. Orientation to emergency planning was held for new public health personnel, and a

course in casualty simulation was conducted to train volunteers in the technique of casualty simulation for disaster exercises. Support for the Saint John Ambulance and Red Cross care-in-the-home courses was continued.

EMERGENCY WELFARE

30. The Department of Social Services maintains a full time officer as Director of Emergency Social Services. The department's responsibility in this field is to develop and maintain a provincial capability to provide emergency social services essential for survival, i.e. emergency lodging, clothing, feeding, personnel services, and registration and inquiry. In addition to this, plans are maintained to continue essential social services programs in emergencies.

31. Community emergency social services programs are the responsibility of the government's field units. The front lines of the department's emergency programs are centered upon community emergency welfare centres which are operated by the local representatives from the provincial unit staff in co-operation with volunteer agencies such as Red Cross and the local school boards. Most welfare centres are located in community schools.

32. During the past year, concerted efforts have been made towards training and exercising these community welfare centres. In particular, the centres in Amherst, Tatamagouche, Halifax, and Antigonish were exercises in conjunction with community disaster exercises.

FIRE DEFENCE

33. The objective of this activity is to reduce fire vulnerability and to co-ordinate fire fighting operations throughout the province.

34. During recent years, EMO (NS) has been instrumental in assisting municipal fire departments to organize an effective program of mutual fire fighting support. This has been down through financial assistance from the federal government through Canada EMO. It assisted fire departments to purchase fire fighting equipment to augment existing facilities, and radio equipment to

assist in mutual support. Fire pumpers and rescue trucks and trailers were provided by the Province to assist in the training of municipal fire departments. This aspect of the activity has now been discontinued because fire departments have reached a satisfactory level of proficiency which does not require further assistance of this nature.

35. Financial assistance was also provided to standardize all municipal fire hose couplings. This in effect will enable any fire department to use their equipment in support of any other fire department. The mainland of Nova Scotia was completed in 1972, and plans have been laid to complete Cape Breton Island in 1973.

RESCUE

36. A study was completed to investigate the feasibility of organizing and training municipal ground search teams to locate lost and stranded persons. The program will be initiated in 1973.